Third United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

A/CONF.28/A/88
FRANCE
February 1964
Original: FRENCH

Confidential until official release during Conference

Abstract

THE PROCESSING AND MANAGEMENT OF WASTES FROM ATOMIC REACTORS

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The policy concerning radioactive wastes studied by all Atomic Centres has led to various procedures which, while apparently numerous, come under a few standard headings.

Whether the wastes are in the liquid or solid state their management depends on their physical and chemical nature.

The procedure adopted is governed by three general principles :

- determination of the most economical means possible of storage and processing by volume reduction ;
- conversion to a solid compact form ;
- complete acceptance of the accepted standards at all places and all times.

In this communication all the standard solutions adopted and used by the various Centres of the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique will be examined bearing in mind the preceding remarks.

Particular mention will be made of the following :

- For liquids, physical, chemical and physico-chemical processing
- For solids, decontamination, volume reduction and long-term conditioning techniques.

The different procedures for collecting and storing solid wastes before and after processing are also discussed.

The paper ends with a brief review of the studies, both technical and economic, being pursued on this subject.

Translation provided by courtesy of the submitting Government